COLL 217
Business Workshop for Humanities Students
Syllabus

Instructor: Brian Spector (bhs3@rice.edu), office hours by appointment.

Semester: Spring 2017

Class meeting time: Mondays 7:00 – 8:00 pm (Please note 4 exceptions below.)

Classroom: Herring Hall 125

Course Description: Companies are looking for candidates with the skills that Humanities students develop at Rice. This workshop provides an overview of how businesses work, which career prospects provide the most opportunity, and how to interview successfully.

Grading: Satisfactory / Unsatisfactory

Requirements: Regular attendance and full participation in the in-class activities. Some reading required for in-class activities. There are no formal writing assignments outside of class.

Please note: This course meets only 9 times. In addition to two Rice holidays on which there are no classes, there are no meetings during 4 additional weeks, including the last three weeks of classes. Also, 4 meetings will last 1½ to 2 hours, rather than the usual 1 hour. I'm sorry if this is an inconvenience but there is no way to divide the content to carry over to the next class.

Readings:

Read by February 13

"Expanding the Playing Field: Nike's World Shoe Project." William Davidson Institute, University of Michigan (2002)

Read by March 6

Valian, Virginia. Why So Slow? The Advancement of Women. "Chapter 14: Remedies." Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 1999.

Adam, Hajo, and Adam Galinksky. "Enclothed Cognition." Journal of Experimental Social Psychology 48.4 (2012)

O'Connor, Joseph, John Seymour, Robert Dilts, and John Grinder. "1." Introducing NLP: Psychological Skills for Understanding and Influencing People.

All readings are available on the COLL 217 Canvas site under Files.

Schedule of Class Meetings:

Week 1 – Monday, January 9 – **NO MEETING**

Week 2 – Monday, January 16 – **SCHOOL HOLIDAY NO MEETING**

Week 3 – Monday, January 23
Course overview, short vignette exercise, overview of business

Week 4 – Monday, January 30
Overview of business, continued

Week 5 – Monday, February 6
Numeracy

Week 6 – Monday, February 13 – **MEET 7-9 PM TODAY**
Case study

Week 7 – Monday, February 20 – **MEET 7-9 PM TODAY**
Alumni panel on careers in business for humanities majors

Week 8 – Monday, February 27 –
Business questions open forum – submit ideas ahead of time and we'll spend the session discussing business topics that matter to you. These can range from what is GDP to how economic theories relate to business to how the oil industry works.

Week 9 – Monday, March 6 – **MEET 7-9 P.M. TODAY**
The interviewing process

Week 10 – Monday, March 13 – **NO MEETING – SPRING BREAK**

Week 11 – Monday, March 20
The interviewing process, continued

Week 12 – Monday, March 27 – **MEET 7-8:30 TODAY**
Vignette exercise / Wrap up

Week 13 – Monday, April 3 – **NO MEETING**

Week 14 – Monday, April 10 – **NO MEETING**

Week 15 – Monday, April 17 – **NO MEETING**

Disability Policy: If you have a documented disability that requires academic accommodation, please confer with me during the first week of class. All arrangements made will be confidential. If you have not already done so, you must contact Disability Support Services in the Allen Center.